The Changing Qiblah

By Mansoor Ali Shah
لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللّٰهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ

Mansoor: Baba, today my teacher told us about something called the Qiblah. What is that?

Baba: That's a great question, Mansoor! The Qiblah is the direction we face when we pray. Do you know which way we face?

Mansoor: Yes! We face the Ka'bah in Makkah.

Baba: That's right! But did you know that in the beginning, Muslims used to pray facing a different direction?

Mansoor: Really? Where did they face before?

Baba: They faced Baitul-Maqdis in Jerusalem. Even our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his companions prayed that way for about sixteen or seventeen months after they moved to Madinah.

Mansoor: But why did they change to the Ka'bah?

Baba: The Prophet ﷺ always wished to pray facing the Ka'bah because it was the first house built for the worship of Allah on Earth. One day, during Asr prayer, Allah commanded him to turn towards the Ka'bah, and he immediately obeyed.

Mansoor: What about the other people who were praying?

Baba: A companion who had prayed with the Prophet ﷺ ran to another mosque where some Muslims were still praying towards Jerusalem. He called out, "By Allah, I testify that I prayed with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ facing Makkah!"

Mansoor: What did they do?

Baba: They changed their direction in the middle of their prayer without hesitation!

Mansoor: Wow! They followed Allah's command right away!

Baba: Yes, my dear. That teaches us an important lesson: when Allah commands something, we should obey immediately, just like the Prophet ﷺ and his companions did.

Mansoor: But Baba, what about the people who prayed facing Jerusalem before the change? Were their prayers accepted?

Baba: That's a thoughtful question, Mansoor. Some Muslims were worried about that too. But then Allah revealed a verse in the Quran, saying:

"And Allah would never make your faith (prayers) to be lost." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:143)

This means Allah accepted all their prayers because they followed what was right at the time.

Mansoor: That's so kind of Allah! He always takes care of us.

Baba: Indeed, He does. This story reminds us to trust Allah's wisdom, obey His commands, and always turn our hearts toward Him.

Mansoor: I will always try to follow Allah's commands, just like the Prophet ﷺ and his companions!

Baba: That's my boy! May Allah keep you on the right path.